Missing Chetak Helicopter

5907. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Chetak Helicopter has been missing after flying from Mangalore;

(b) whether there was no contact with ground control after it took off;

(c) the number of persons in the chopper; and

(d) the steps taken to search the helicopter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The missing helicopter had maintained contact with the ground control at Mangalore for about 20 minutes after take off.

(c) There were two pilots and one technical sailor on board the helicopter.

(d) A number of Naval and Air Force aircraft/helicopters have been pressed into service for locating the wreckage of the missing helicopter. Simultaneously, parties of army and Naval personnel as well as village volunteers and Forest Guards are conducting searches on the ground. A Temporary Detachment has also been established by the Navy at Mangalore to coordinate the search operation. These search operations have been severely affected by incessant rain, low clouds and the thick foliage in the area. The search operations are still continuing.

Robbery in Faridabad Branch of Dena Bank

5908. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a bank robbery in Dena Bank branch, Neelam Bata Road, Faridabad on June 17,1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of the employees and customers were killed in the encounter with robbers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any compensation was paid to the employees and the amount paid so far;

(f) whether the next of kin of the customers who were killed while in bank for official transaction were also paid compensation?

(g) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the time by which they are likely to be paid compensation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) There was an attempt of robbery at Faridabad branch of Dena Bank on 17th June, 1991.

(b) to (d). Three armed robbers made an unsuccessful attempt to loot the branch. On being resisted by the bank guard/other staff, the robbers fired indiscriminately and in the process the armed guard of the bank, an outsider and one culprit were killed. Besides, 4 staff members and 4 outsiders were injured. Remaining robbers fled. There was no loss of money.